

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing replaces all prior listing of the claims.

IN THE CLAIMS

Amend the claims as follows:

1 (Currently amended). A bi-directional locking device ~~and locking seal~~ including a locking arrangement for receiving and locking a shackle thereto, the shackle having at least one locking element ~~having a transverse locking shoulder~~, the shackle being insertable into a device chamber for engagement with the locking arrangement, the locking arrangement comprising:

a body defining said chamber therein having a longitudinal axis defining a longitudinal direction, the body having opposing top and bottom ends wherein the top end defines a top opening communicating with the chamber in the longitudinal direction, and the bottom end defines a bottom opening communicating with the chamber in the longitudinal direction; and

a plurality of resilient fingers positioned in the chamber ~~and, respective ones of the fingers~~ extending in opposing a directions toward and substantially aligned with each other in the longitudinal direction, the plurality of fingers each being positioned to allow passage of the at least one locking element of the shackle in first and second opposite insertion longitudinal directions through either the top or the bottom opening, at least one of the fingers for locking engaging the at least one locking element ~~shoulder in response to the~~ to preclude shackle movement withdrawal from the chamber in a direction opposite to the insertion direction to lock the shackle to the body ~~engaged at least one finger~~ in the opposite direction.

Claim 2, canceled.

3 (Currently amended). The locking device of claim 1 wherein at least one first finger extends from a region adjacent to the top end and locks with the shackle at least one locking element ~~shoulder~~ when the shackle insertion direction is through the top opening ~~and~~ to preclude the shackle is being withdrawn from the chamber ~~moved in the opposite~~ a direction opposite to the shackle insertion direction, and at least one second finger extends from a region adjacent to the bottom end and locks with the shackle at least one locking element ~~shoulder~~ when the shackle insertion direction is through the bottom opening ~~and~~ to preclude the shackle is being withdrawn form the chamber ~~moved in the opposite~~ a direction opposite to the shackle insertion direction.

Claim 4, canceled.

5 (Previously presented). The locking device of claim 1 wherein the plurality of fingers include a pair of transversely opposing spaced top fingers relative to the longitudinal axis and opposing pair of transversely spaced bottom fingers relative to the longitudinal axis, the top and bottom pairs respectively extending toward one another.

6 (Currently amended). The locking device of claim 1 wherein the plurality of fingers include at least one top and at least one bottom finger, the at least one top and bottom fingers ~~are~~ being in a mirror image relationship to each other.

7 (Original). The locking device of claim 6 wherein the at least one top and bottom fingers each have a channel that extends at an angle inclined toward the longitudinal axis.

8 (Currently amended). The locking device of claim 6 wherein the top and bottom fingers include a first portion having a first channel extending in the longitudinal direction connected to the bottom and top ends and a second distal portion having a second channel extending from the first portion first channel at an angle to the first channel.

9 (Original). The locking device of claim 8 wherein the angle is acute.

10 (Original). The locking device of claim 8 wherein the second distal portion extends toward the longitudinal axis.

Claim 11, canceled.

12 (Original). The locking device of claim 8 wherein the second distal portion of the fingers extend in a direction transverse to the longitudinal axis.

Claim 13, canceled.

14 (Currently amended). The locking device of claim 1 wherein the fingers are integrally molded one piece with and extend from the top and bottom ends.

15 (Currently amended). The locking device of claim 1 wherein the device includes a socket with said chamber, the locking arrangement ~~comprises~~ comprising an insert for insertion into the socket chamber.

16 (Original). The locking device of claim 5 wherein the plurality of fingers define a passageway adapted to receive the at least one locking element which is annular.

17 (Currently amended). The locking device of claim 5 wherein the plurality of fingers define a passageway adapted to receive the at least one locking element which includes a frusto-conical portion and a locking shoulder.

18 (Currently amended). The locking device of claim 1 including first and second pairs of spaced mirror image fingers, each pair in mirror image orientation to the other pair, the pairs each defining a portion of a common passageway in the longitudinal direction, wherein the passageway is adapted to receive the at least one locking element which is frusto-conical and includes a rim with a shoulder which abuts the fingers of one of the first and second pairs of spaced mirror image fingers ~~when the shackle~~ to preclude shackle withdrawal from the chamber ~~is moved in the opposite~~ in a direction opposite to the insertion direction.

19 (Original). The locking device of claim 1 further including a socket having a chamber, wherein the locking arrangement comprises an insert fixedly attached inside the socket chamber.

20 (Original). The locking device of claim 19 wherein the shackle has a longitudinal axis, the socket is integral and one piece with the shackle and with a flag and wherein the socket has a longitudinal axis that extends substantially perpendicular to the shackle longitudinal axis.

21 (Original). The locking device of claim 19 wherein the body is substantially cylindrical.

22 (Currently amended). The locking device of claim 19 wherein the body has a plurality of ~~spaced~~ side walls interconnecting the top and bottom ends, each side wall being spaced from the next adjacent side wall and defining the body chamber.

23 (Currently amended).The locking device of claim 3 wherein a passageway is defined by the at least one first and second fingers and an inner side wall in transverse spaced relation relative to the longitudinal axis, and the locking element lockingly abuts the inner side wall when ~~the~~ a finger[[s]] locks to ~~with~~ the locking element shoulder.

24 (Original).The locking device of claim 23 wherein the inner side wall includes a recess adapted and positioned for lockingly engaging the locking element when at least one of the fingers lock with the locking element shoulder.

25 (Amended). A bi-directional lockable sealing device comprising:
a socket defining a first chamber therein,

a shackle having an at least one locking element, the shackle being fixed at one end to the socket and having a free end opposite the one end;

a locking insert secured to the socket in the first chamber, the locking insert including a body ~~defining~~ having a second chamber therein ~~having~~ defining a longitudinal axis ~~extending therethrough, which defines~~ defining a longitudinal direction, the locking insert including opposing top and bottom ends ~~wherein~~ the top end defines a top opening communicating with the second chamber, and the bottom end defines a bottom opening communicating with the second chamber; and

a plurality of resilient fingers positioned in the second chamber, at least one first finger of the plurality extending in a direction away from the top end, and at least one second finger of the plurality extending in a direction away from the bottom end toward and aligned with the first finger and extending in an opposite direction as the one first finger, the fingers defining a passageway in the second chamber arranged to allow passage of the at least one locking element as the free end of the shackle is pulled through the passageway in an insertion direction through either the top or the bottom opening such that the fingers are ~~in sliding resilient engagement~~ engaged with the at least one locking element, and wherein one of at least one first and second fingers is arranged to abut and lock to at least one locking element of the shackle ~~when the to~~ preclude shackle movement is in a direction opposite to the insertion direction ~~providing locking resistance to the shackle in the opposite direction.~~

26 (Currently amended). The sealing device of claim 25 wherein at least one finger extending from the top end locks with the at least one shackle locking element when the shackle insertion direction is through the top opening ~~and the shackle is being~~

~~moved in the opposite direction to the shackle insertion direction,~~ and the at least one finger extending from the bottom end locks with the shackle at least one locking element when the shackle insertion direction is through the bottom opening ~~and the shackle is being moved in the opposite direction to the shackle insertion direction.~~

27 (Currently amended). The sealing device of claim 25 further comprising a flag structure attached to the socket.

28 (Currently amended). The sealing device of claim 25 further including a shank ~~positioned~~ connected to and between the socket and the shackle.

29 (Currently amended). A bi-directional lockable sealing device, comprising ~~which comprises:~~

a socket ~~including a body~~ defining a chamber therein having a longitudinal axis defining a longitudinal direction, the socket including opposing top and bottom ends wherein the top end defines a top opening communicating with the chamber, and the bottom end defines a bottom opening communicating with the chamber;

a shackle having at least one locking element, the shackle having a free end; and

a plurality of resilient fingers positioned in the socket chamber, at least one first finger of the plurality extending in a direction away from the top end and at least one second finger ~~from~~ of the plurality extending in a direction away from the bottom end toward and aligned with the first finger in the longitudinal direction, the fingers and socket defining a passageway in the chamber, the passageway and being arranged to allow passage of the at least one locking element as ~~the free end of the shackle is pulled~~

through the passageway in an insertion direction through either the top or the bottom opening such that the at least one of the at least one first and second fingers are in sliding resilient engagement with the at least one locking element, and wherein one of the at least one first and second fingers is arranged to abut and lock to the at least one locking element of the shackle ~~when the~~ to preclude withdrawal of the shackle movement is in an opposite a direction opposite to the insertion direction ~~providing locking resistance to the shackle displacement in the opposite direction.~~

30 (Currently amended). A locking insert for use with a sealing device including a shackle have at least one locking element, the insert comprising

a body defining a chamber therein having a longitudinal axis defining a longitudinal direction, the body having opposing top and bottom ends wherein the top end defines a top opening communicating with the chamber in the longitudinal direction, and the bottom end defines a bottom opening communicating with the chamber in the longitudinal direction; and

a plurality of resilient fingers positioned in the chamber and extending in a direction away from the body ends in opposite directions toward and aligned with each other in the longitudinal direction, the plurality of fingers being positioned to allow passage of the at least one locking element of the shackle in first and second opposite insertion directions through either the top or the bottom opening, at least one of the fingers for locking engaging the at least one locking element shoulder ~~in response to~~ preclude the shackle movement in an opposite a direction opposite to the insertion direction to lock the shackle to the insert in the opposite direction.

Add the following claims:

31 (New). A bi-directional locking device including a locking arrangement for receiving and locking a shackle thereto, the shackle having at least one locking element, the shackle being insertable into a device chamber for engagement with the locking arrangement, the locking arrangement comprising:

a body having said chamber, the chamber defining a longitudinal axis which defines a longitudinal direction, the body having opposing top and bottom ends wherein the top end defines a top opening communicating with the chamber in the longitudinal direction, and the bottom end defines a bottom opening communicating with the chamber in the longitudinal direction; and

a plurality of resilient fingers positioned in the chamber and extending toward each other in the longitudinal direction, the plurality of fingers being positioned to allow passage of the at least one locking element of the shackle in first and second opposite insertion longitudinal directions through either the top or the bottom opening, at least one of the fingers for locking engaging the at least one locking element to preclude shackle movement in an opposite direction to the insertion direction to lock the shackle to the body in the opposite direction;

the plurality of fingers including at least one top and at least one bottom finger, the at least one top and bottom fingers being in mirror image relationship to each other.

32 (New). A bi-directional locking device including a locking arrangement for receiving and locking a shackle thereto, the shackle having at least one locking element, the shackle being insertable into a device chamber for engagement with the locking arrangement, the locking arrangement comprising:

a body having said chamber, the chamber defining a longitudinal axis which defines a longitudinal direction, the body having opposing top and bottom ends wherein the top end defines a top opening communicating with the chamber in the longitudinal direction, and the bottom end defines a bottom opening communicating with the chamber in the longitudinal direction; and

a plurality of resilient fingers positioned in the chamber and extending toward each other in the longitudinal direction, the plurality of fingers being positioned to allow passage of the at least one locking element of the shackle in first and second opposite insertion longitudinal directions through either the top or the bottom opening, at least one of the fingers for locking engaging the at least one locking element to preclude shackle movement in a direction opposite to the insertion direction to lock the shackle to the body in the opposite direction;

the plurality of fingers including a pair of transversely opposing spaced top fingers relative to the longitudinal axis and opposing pair of transversely spaced bottom fingers, the top and bottom pairs respectively extending toward one another.

33 (New). A bi-directional locking device including a locking arrangement for receiving and locking a shackle thereto, the shackle having at least one locking element, the shackle being insertable into a device chamber for engagement with the locking arrangement, the locking arrangement comprising:

a body defining said chamber, the chamber defining a longitudinal axis which defines a longitudinal direction, the body having opposing top and bottom ends wherein the top end defines a top opening communicating with the chamber in the longitudinal direction, and the bottom end defines a bottom opening communicating with the

chamber in the longitudinal direction; and

a plurality of resilient fingers positioned in the chamber and extending toward each other in the longitudinal direction, the plurality of fingers each being positioned to allow passage of the at least one locking element of the shackle in first and second opposite insertion longitudinal directions through either the top or the bottom opening, at least one of the fingers for locking engaging the at least one locking element to preclude shackle movement in an opposite direction to the insertion direction to lock the shackle to the body in the opposite direction;

the plurality of fingers including at least one top and at least one bottom finger, the at least one top and bottom fingers each having a channel that extends at an angle inclined toward the longitudinal axis.

34 (New). A bi-directional locking device including a locking arrangement for receiving and locking a shackle thereto, the shackle having at least one locking element, the shackle being insertable into a device chamber for engagement with the locking arrangement, the locking arrangement comprising:

a body defining said chamber, the chamber defining a longitudinal axis which defines a longitudinal direction, the body having opposing top and bottom ends where the top end defines a top opening communicating with the chamber in the longitudinal direction, and the bottom end defines a bottom opening communicating with the chamber in the longitudinal direction; and

a plurality of resilient fingers positioned in the chamber and extending toward each other in the longitudinal direction, the plurality of fingers being positioned to allow passage of the at least one locking element of the shackle in first and second opposite

insertion longitudinal directions through either the top or the bottom opening, at least one of the fingers for locking engaging the at least one locking element to preclude the shackle movement in a direction opposite to the insertion direction to lock the shackle to the body;

at least one first finger extending from the top end to lock with the shackle at least one locking element when the shackle is inserted through the top opening and to preclude the shackle withdrawal from the chamber in a direction opposite to the shackle insertion direction, and at least one second finger extending from the bottom end to lock with the shackle at least one locking element when the shackle insertion direction is through the bottom opening and to preclude the shackle withdrawal from the chamber in a direction opposite to the shackle insertion direction;

a passageway being defined by the at least one first and second fingers and an inner side wall in transverse spaced relation relative to the longitudinal axis, the locking element lockingly abuts the inner side wall when a finger locks to the locking element shoulder.